



13th May 2022

Letter 117

Greetings,

Coins



A week ago, Jerome was given a large bag of coins. He was like a child in a lolly shop! It is painstaking work, sorting, cleaning and filing them, but Jerome is always up for it.

If you have coins you no longer want, he would be very happy to receive them.

St Gemma Galgani – feast day Monday May 16th



Gemma was born in 1878, in Camigliano, near Lucca. She was eight when her mother died of TB. When she was seventeen, she nursed her brother Eugene day and night until he died in 1896, also of TB. Her father was a pharmacist and had been prosperous but these deaths, and a prolonged sickness of others in the family took all his money. Soon the family was reduced to poverty. The situation got worse when her father got cancer of the throat and Gemma nursed him until his death in 1897. So, before Gemma was twenty, experienced the sorrow of seeing both her parents and brother die.

She did not enjoy good health herself and at age fifteen she had to undergo very painful surgery on her foot without an anaesthetic. A few years later she had severe problems with her spine. She had to wear a very heavy iron brace day and night that left only her arms free. She developed a curvature of the spine and meningitis left her with temporarily loss of hearing. Large abscesses formed on her head, her hair fell off, and finally her limbs became paralysed. A doctor was called in and tried many remedies which all failed. She only grew worse. There was no hope of recovery.

A Sister who attended to her needs knew of Gabriel Possenti, the young Passionist, and she gave Gemma a novena card and the life of Gabriel which she read several times. She claimed that one night Gabriel appeared to her, and reassured her she would recover. She did!



In 1899 several Passionists preached a mission in Lucca

where she was now living and she attended. She was surprised to see the missionaries wearing the same religious habit as she had seen Gabriel wearing. She talked to one of the priests, Fr Cajetan who listened to her story and later allowed her to take private vows. He also arranged for her to live with the Gianini family, benefactors of the Passionists. Later she came under the direction of another Passionist, Fr Germano Ruoppolo who was well-acquainted with mystical theology and spiritual writers. He encouraged her to keep a diary and he reassured her when she received the stigmata that this was authentic. Gemma developed a desire to join the Passionist nuns at Tarquinia but was rejected. She was not allowed even to visit the convent.

Gemma died of TB in 1903 at the age of twenty-five. After her death she was clothed in a religious habit, and the Passionist Sign she had so much desired to wear, was placed over her heart. She had said that the Passionists would not accept her in life but they would in death. At her canonisation, the Pope said "If not by habit and profession, undoubtedly by desire and affection, Gemma is rightly numbered among the religious children of St. Paul of the Cross".



In 1923, Gemma's body was transferred to the shrine at the Passionist Convent in Lucca. On 2nd May 1940, Pius XII proclaimed her a saint. Gemma was not a professed Passionist, but she was a Passionist! She shows clearly that the charism of Paul of the Cross belongs to laity as well as professed. There is much that could be made of Gemma as a role model for today, and especially for Passionists who are not professed.



Photographs show she was a very attractive blue eyed dark skinned young woman. Unfortunately until recent years her personal and spiritual experiences have been presented in a pious way and it would be good to balance that with stories such as one concerning a woman who came to live with her benefactor family as a water carrier, The woman was a prostitute and when this became known, the family wanted to evict

her. Gemma objected saying 'Jesus would never treat people like that'. The family relented and Gemma befriended the woman who in time changed her life's direction.

Pope Francis and Patriarch Krill

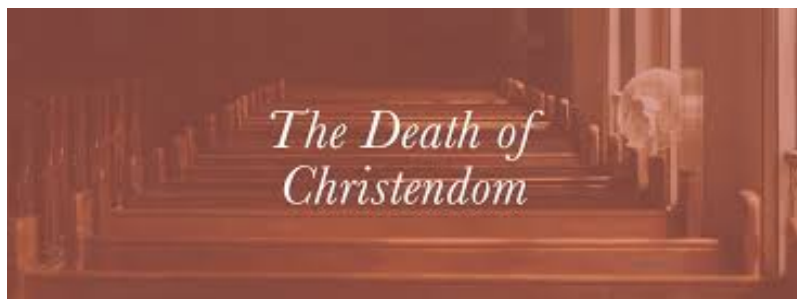
By Anne-Bénédicte Hoffner (deputy editor-in-chief of La Croix)



With his characteristic candour, Pope Francis perfectly described the Zoom meeting Patriarch Kirill of Moscow invited him to on March 16, about three weeks after the start of the hostilities in Ukraine. "The first twenty minutes, with a paper in his hand, he read me all the justifications for the war. I listened to him and said, 'I don't understand any of this'," the pope recounted in an interview published Tuesday in the Italian daily Corriere della Sera.

"Brother, we are not clerics of the state, we cannot use the language of politics, but (must use) the language of Jesus," Francis chided him. "The patriarch cannot turn into an altar boy for Putin," he then told the journalist interviewing him.

The European Commission (EC) shares the pope's conviction. As a sixth set of measures in response to the war in Ukraine, it has proposed to sanction the head of the Russian Orthodox Church as it has many oligarchs and military leaders. Patriarch Kirill, "a long-time ally of President Vladimir Putin, has become one of the main supporters of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine," underlines the EC document.



Drawing the boundaries between politics and religion is a debate as old as Christianity – or rather, Christendom – and runs through the Churches. But for Pope Francis, the cause is

clear. "Christendom no longer exists!" he said during his 2019 Christmas address to the Roman Curia. There is no doubt that communications with the Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia on this particular issue are very poor.

'The Church must not use the language of politics, but the language of Jesus.'

8.5.22

R.P. Pierre-Jean: 17.

Quelle bonne...
 question par la course.
 l'usage de la papauté au 19^{ème} siècle n'est pas une réponse à la question de la papauté.
 1) Dieu est celui qui ne se laisse pas définir par les hommes. C'est la première question à poser.
 2) Les "concordats", négociations et traités de la papauté avec les États. C'est la deuxième question à poser.
 3) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la troisième question à poser.
 4) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la quatrième question à poser.
 5) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la cinquième question à poser.
 6) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la sixième question à poser.
 7) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la septième question à poser.
 8) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la huitième question à poser.
 9) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la neuvième question à poser.
 10) Le papauté est une institution qui a évolué au cours de l'histoire. C'est la dixième question à poser.

Pope Francis: God does not disown his children

Rome: On May 8, 2022, a handwritten letter from Pope Francis responded in Spanish to three questions posed by Jesuit Father James Martin about LGBT people and their relationship to God and the Catholic Church. (Credit: CNS photo/Courtesy Father James Martin.) Pope Francis said he wants LGBT Catholics to know that God is a father who “does not disown any of his children.”

The pope’s comment was among the short answers to three questions posed in a letter by Jesuit Father James Martin, editor at large of America magazine and a driving force behind its new website, outreach. faith, which provides news and resources for LGBT Catholics, their families and the people who minister with them. Pope Francis’s letter, in Spanish, is dated May 8; it was posted on Outreach the next day. And Vatican Media also published a translation in Italian. Martin asked the pope, “What do you say to an LGBT Catholic who has experienced rejection from the church?”

“I would have them recognize it not as the ‘rejection of the church,’ but instead ‘of people in the church,’” the pope responded. “The church is mother and calls together all of her children,” he continued. “Take for example the parable of those invited to the feast: ‘the just, the sinners, the rich and the poor, etc.’” A church that is “selective,” or makes some pretext about who is “pure,” he said, “is not the Holy Mother Church, but rather a sect.”



Asked what the most important thing LGBT people should know about God, Pope Francis responded, “God is Father and he does not disown any of his children. And ‘the style’ of God is ‘closeness, mercy and tenderness.’ Along this path you will find God.” Martin also asked the pope what he would like LGBT people to know about the church, to which the pope responded that they should read the

Acts of the Apostles. “There they will find the image of the living church.”

Waiting



It is common for parents to note the differences in their children, despite their common origins. In fact, uniqueness is a feature of creation. No two

galaxies, no two stars or planets are identical. On Earth, we discover a similar reality. Despite their similarities, no two members of a species are identical. Nor two shells or two snowflakes. Not even two 'identical' twins.

Every time water freezes to make snow, flake molecules arrange themselves into a distinctive six-sided honeycomb-type structure. This happens because of the way hydrogen and oxygen atoms inside the molecules behave when they encounter other water molecules. What looks like a small white blob is in fact a beautifully ordered unique masterpiece

Often we cannot see the sub-patterns in our lives and sometimes we have to wait until (life's) patterns show themselves. If we look closely at a fern or a pine tree, we can notice the repeated patterns that make each large section a duplication of the smaller. These are called fractals. They exist in a number of nature's systems. Because the very simple basic design occurs randomly it can create something very complex, combining chaos and order



There is a story about a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared in a cocoon. I man sat and watched for several hours as the emerging butterfly struggled to force its body through the small hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared to have got as far as it could, so the man decided to help. He took a pair of scissors and opened the cocoon. The butterfly emerged easily...but its body was withered! It was tiny and its wings were shriveled.

The man continued to watch, expecting at any moment that the wings would open, enlarge and expand to be able to support its body weight and become firm. Neither happened! The butterfly spent the rest of its short life crawling around with a withered body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

The restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening, is natures' way of forcing fluid from the butterfly's body into its wings. Once it achieves its freedom from the cocoon, it is ready for flight.



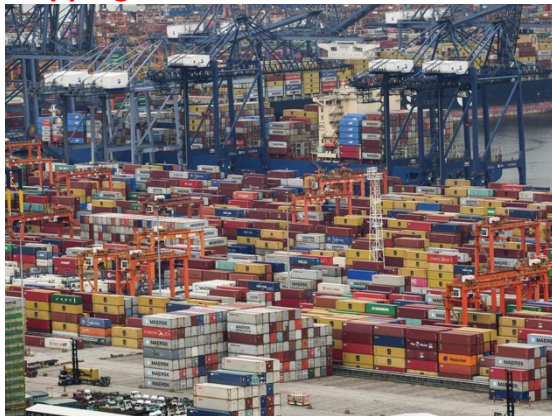
Life speaks to us of patience and transformation. Sometimes it can seem as if nothing is happening. If we avoid or hurry the process of growth, we will not be as strong as we could have been, and certainly we

will never learn to fly. Waiting is a gift not greatly appreciated in our modern busy life because we look for instant results. The struggle to gain what we are seeking is largely avoided if possible, yet, as in childbirth. pain is deeply linked to life and growth.

What are you waiting for?

You are waiting for Life to unfold and some unfolding cannot be hurried. If we wait with patience we will appreciate and enjoy not only the process, but appreciate what cannot be achieved by force and cannot be seen at a hurried glance.

Shipping crisis

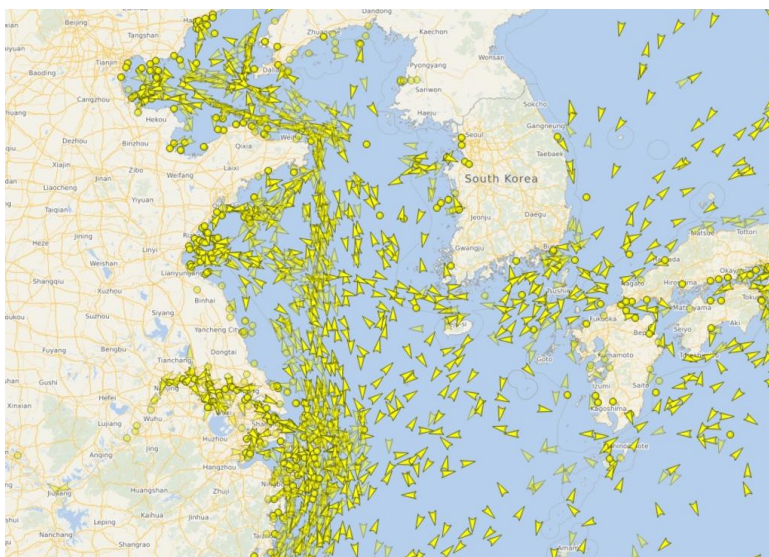


The delay to the chairs for our chapel is frustrating, but we are not alone in facing the frustrations of slow delivery of items. Timber frames for a new house can be delayed for 46 weeks and new cars can be delayed for 12-18 months. More than one-quarter of goods imported into Australia come from China, including \$15 billion worth of electronics, \$14 billion worth of machinery and \$5 billion worth of clothing.

I heard ANU management expert David Leaney speaking on radio yesterday. He explained that Shanghai is the world's busiest port and it has been locked down for two months. Thousands of people involved in diverse activities on the docks have been locked up at home. Restrictions have now been introduced in Beijing so these delays will be extended throughout the world.

It is estimated that one-fifth of the world's cargo ships are stuck in port. Vessel tracking images (see left) show the scale of the problem, with thousands of ships milling off the coast of China. Vessel tracking maps are amazing:

<https://www.vesselfinder.com/>



The whole shipping system is interconnected. Most ships load and unload at various ports on their way to deliver cargo. Once a ship is stuck at one port, the deliveries it was going to make at other ports cannot happen.

Leaney said, “There’s enough shipping containers to circle the equator four times, but at the moment instead of being smoothly spread out around the world, they’re logjammed in these traffic jams in Shanghai and other places,” he said, and added. “We are months away from the traffic flowing smoothly again, so I’d say we’ve got the rest of this year with delays and increased costs.

So, like the butterfly in the cocoon, we have to wait patiently!



Pilgrimage to Cambodia and Vietnam 2022/2023

(A note from Peter Gardiner CP)



Following our wonderful and successful pilgrimages to Vietnam in 2011, 2014, and 2016, and Cambodia in 2016, we will be offering two pilgrimages in the New Year.

We will be working in **Cambodia** from December 28th 2022, until January 5th, 2023.

With our partners, Volunteer Building Cambodia), we will build two houses for

poorer families in rural Siem Reap. Our work will further help the VBC Community School, which provides education for disadvantaged rural students.

(<https://www.volunteerbuildingcambodia.org/>)

We will also be in **Vietnam** from January 8th to 19th, 2023. We will be working with disabled orphans, children born HIV+, and other disadvantaged children and families. The cost for each of these pilgrimages is \$1500 per person, twin share. This will include accommodation and costs of working with our partners (houses, donations etc.). Any money left over will be made as donations to our partners

Each participant is responsible for travel, visas etc

Expressions of interest close on June 15th, 2022

For further details, don't hesitate to get in touch with Fr Peter Gardiner CP at cppilg2023@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/VietnamPilg23/> and <https://www.facebook.com/CambPilg23/>

The Chapel

The work to relocate the tabernacle will take place in the third week of June.

Unfortunately we were advised yesterday of another delay in the arrival of the chairs.

The new 'date' is July. Will they arrive by then?

Interesting....English

I thought a thought.

But the thought I thought wasn't the thought I thought I thought.

If the thought I thought I thought had been the thought I thought, I wouldn't have thought so much.

Depending on punctuation skills what did this person mean to say?

This: I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind and thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior.

Or this? I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind and thoughtful people who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior.

The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick

Mr. See owned a saw.

And Mr. Soar owned a seesaw.

Now, See's saw sawed Soar's seesaw

Before Soar saw See,

Which made Soar sore.

Had Soar seen See's saw

Before See sawed Soar's seesaw,
See's saw would not have sawed
Soar's seesaw.
So See's saw sawed Soar's seesaw.
But it was sad to see Soar so sore
just because See's saw sawed
Soar's seesaw.
A certain young fellow named Beebee
Wished to marry a lady named Phoebe
"But," he said. "I must see
What the minister's fee will be
Before Phoebe be Phoebe Beebee

Q What kind of bird doesn't need a comb?

A A bald eagle.

Q Why did the nurse need a red pen at work?

A In case she needed to draw blood.

Q What kind of key opens a haunted house?

A A spook-key!

Q What does the dentist of the year get?

A A little plaque.

Q What's the difference between the bird flu and swine flu?

A One requires tweetment and the other an oinkment.

Q Why did the watch go on vacation?

A To unwind.

Humour From Mother's Day



One of Mardi's daughter's Marianne, prepared this photo reflection on Mardi's 90 years of life. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9qrSUMkP-4>

Farewell

We extend prayerful thanks and best wishes to **Ken and Carol Sharp** who will celebrate with us for the final time this Sunday before relocating to Warrnambool.

Prayers

We remember **Graham Stevens** a friend of Len Watson's, who passed away last Sunday. We remember **Ann Ryan** whose anniversary is May 16th, **Shirely Horlock** (Tim's mother) whose anniversary is May 17th, and **Betty Wells** and **Linda Smyth** whose anniversaries are on May 18th and **Frank Aloï**.

This weekend we remember:

Maree Bartoli, Dominic Isgro, Gerry Bond, Jacki Tomm, Peter Owen, Barry Wong, Errol Lovett, Pam Grehan, Mary Corkoren, Angelo Vigilante, Lesley Yang, Graham Hille, Brenda Rodrigues, Mary Hackett, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Patricia Keeghan, Peter McNamara, Pam Gartland, Michael Doyle, Mary Coburn, Jim Monaghan, Maeve and John Reardon, Anne Jenkins, Kate and Mary Dunn, Ray Sanchez and Helen McLean, the daughter of Ian and Judy who has breast cancer. Judy is sister to Justin Ives CP RIP. We remember also those we know who seek or need our prayers.

I thank my God
every time I
remember you.
In all of my prayers
for all of you,
I always pray with joy.

Philippians 1:3-4

The link for the recoded Mass (Easter Week 5 Year C) will be sent on Saturday.

The **Mass link** will continue to be sent on Saturday afternoons.

The **weekly newsletter** will be abbreviated for the next few weeks (until June 17th) and sent out by Tim Horlock. If you have news that you would like to share with the community, please email Tim on: horlocktim1@gmail.com

Have a good weekend.

Brian